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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR      | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/723,852  | 11/28/2000  | Christopher Brian Brodeur | 760-19              | 6459             |
| 23869   | 7590        | 12/15/2004                | EXAMINER            |                  |
| HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP<br>6900 JERICHO TURNPIKE<br>SYOSSET, NY 11791 |             |                           | THALER, MICHAEL H   |                  |
|   |             |                           | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                           | 3731                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                        |                     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |
|                              | 09/723,852             | BRODEUR ET AL.      |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |
|                              | Michael Thaler         | 3731                |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 2-5, 11-13, 23, 25 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 23 and 25 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 2-5, 11-13 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 October 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                     | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                                  |

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A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on Oct. 29, 2004 has been entered.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The term "perimetricaly" in the phrase "perimetricaly non-continuous" used throughout the specification should be clarified to mean that the tubular structure can be non-continuous either around the circumference of the tubular member (as shown at 4 in figure 1, for example) or along the longitudinal axis of the tubular member (as shown at 7 in figure 2, for example). The last sentence of the new paragraph on page 7, line 19 to page 8, line 4 should be amended by inserting the phrase "or longitudinally arranged segments" after "strips" and before "7a and 10a" and by deleting the phrase "having longitudinal arranged segments" at the end of the sentence to make it clear that the "longitudinally arranged segments" are the same elements as the individual strips 7a and 10a. Appropriate correction is required.

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Claims 2-5, 11-13 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 26, line 6, it is unclear if "arranged longitudinally" in the phrase "arranged longitudinally in non-overlapping relationship to create gaps therein" means that the segments are arranged such that they are elongated and extend parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tubular member (as shown at 4 in figure 1, for example) or that they are arranged such that they are spaced from each other along the longitudinal axis of the tubular member (as shown at 7a in figure 2 for example).

Claims 23 and 25 are allowed.

Claims 2-5, 11-13 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Thaler whose telephone number is (571)272-4704. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan T. Nguyen can be reached on (571)272-4963. The fax phone number for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is  
(703) 872-9306.

mht  
12/9/04



MICHAEL THALER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3731